

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8855

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 7023

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO, PINT

SUBJ: SOCIALIST LEADER CRITICIZES FORD

REF: LISBON 6938 (DTG 121153Z OCT 76)

SUMMARY: PS LEADER JAIME GAMA ON OCT 13 SHARPLY
CRITICIZED PRESIDENT FORD'S RECENT STATEMENT ON
PORTUGAL AND POINTEDLY NOTED THAT THE CENTRAL GOVERN-
MENT AND NOT THE AZOREAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT WAS IN
CHARGE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. END SUMMARY

1. GAMA CRITICIZES FORD STATEMENT: IN A STATEMENT
ON THE FLOOR OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OCT 13
SOCIALIST PARTY DEPUTY JAIME GAMA CRITICIZED
PRESIDENT FORD'S STATEMENT ON PORTUGAL IN THE
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SECOND DEBATE WITH CARTER. HIGHLIGHTS OF GAMA'S

REMARKS INCLUDED:

-- THE PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. IS FREE, ABOVE ALL IN A DOMESTIC ELECTION CAMPAIGN, TO PRESENT HIMSELF IN THE BEST POSSIBLE LIGHT. BUT HE HAS NO RIGHT TO CLAIM AS HIS OWN A VICTORY RESULTING FROM THE COLLECTIVE STRUGGLE OF THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE.

-- THE HEAT OF AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN AT TIMES PRODUCES UNEXACT STATEMENTS STIMULATED BY POINTS MADE BY ADVERSARIES. PRESIDENT FORD IS NO EXCEPTION TO THIS RULE.

-- THE PORTUGUESE KNOW VERY WELL THAT CURRENT POLITICAL STABILITY WAS WON BY DOMESTIC DEMOCRATIC FORCES.

-- SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER, BELIEVING THAT THE ADVANCE OF TOTALITARIAN FORCES OF THE PSEUDO-LEFT WOULD CONSTITUTE A "VACCINATION FOR EUROPE," ACCEPTED A DE FACTO SITUATION IN PORTUGAL WHICH DOES NOT NOW GIVE THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION THE RIGHT TO CLAIM FOR ITSELF THE LAURELS FOR REESTABLISHING DEMOCRACY IN PORTUGAL.

2. GAMA ON AZORES AND U.S. AID: GAMA RESERVED HIS HARSHTEST WORDS FOR THE PSD REGIONAL GOVERNMENT IN THE AZORES LACED WITH MORE BARBS FOR THE USG.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED:

-- USAID: ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED, BUT AID FROM WHATEVER SOURCE MUST NOT COME WITH CONDITIONS OR PROMOTE DEPENDENCY. AMERICAN AID MUST FIT WITHIN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL OBJECTIVES FREELY DEFINED BY THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE. SUCH AID SYMBOLIZES THE PROFOUND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN TWO PEOPLES AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS.

-- AGAINST DIRECT CONTACTS: DIRECT CONTACTS BETWEEN THE PSD REGIONAL GOVERNMENT AND THE USG ARE ON SHAKEY CONSTITUTIONAL GROUNDS. THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDES FOR PARTICIPATION BY THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS IN THE NEGOTIATION OF RELEVANT TREATIES OR INTERNATIONAL ACCORDS, FOR EXAMPLE THE LAJES BASE AGREEMENT, PUT IN TERMS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW THE CONTRACTING PARTY ON THE PORTUGUESE SIDE IS ALWAYS CONFIDENTIAL

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THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

-- A GRATUITOUS REMINDER: THE RECENT TRAVEL OF AID TECHNICIANS TO THE AZORES FOR DIRECT CONTACTS WITH THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT AND THE ARRIVAL IN LISBON OF RANKING REGIONAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FOR CONVERSATIONS WITH THE U.S. EMBASSY REQUIRES US TO CALL ATTENTION TO: (A) THE CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, AND

ESPECIALLY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, IN THIS AREA;
AND (B) THE RESPECT WHICH THE PORTUGUESE CONSTITUTION
SHOULD MERIT FROM OTHER DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS.

3. COMMENT: GAMA IS MODERATE IN OUTLOOK AND CLOSE
TO SOARES; HE IS A MEMBER OF THE PS INNER CIRCLE.
HIS DOUBLE-BARRELED ATTACK APPEARS DESIGNED TO:
(A) IN THE CASE OF THE FORD STATEMENT, TO SET THE
RECORD STRAIGHT FROM THE PORTUGUESE PERSPECTIVE;
(B) TO KEEP THE HEAT ON THE PSD AZOREAN REGIONAL
GOVERNMENT. GAMA AND THE SOCIALISTS ALSO HAVE
VERY MUCH IN MIND THE LOCAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN
WHICH UNOFFICIALLY IS ALREADY IN FULL SWING. THE
PS NATIONAL CONGRESS, NOW BARELY TWO WEEKS AWAY IS A MORE
IMMEDIATE CONCERN. NEITHER GAMA NOR THE MODERATE PS
LEADERSHIP IS ABOVE A LITTLE POSTURING ON THE LEFT
TO PROVIDE SOME INSURANCE AGAINST ANTICIPATED ATTACKS
BY PARTY LEFT-WINGERS ASSERTING OVERLY COSY RELATIONS
WITH THE AMERICANS.
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